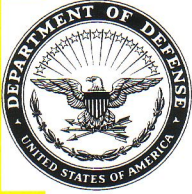


SAFETY ALERT



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

AFZX-SA

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER AND FORT POLK
6661 WARRIOR TRAIL, BUILDING 350
FORT POLK, LOUISIANA 71459-5339



APR 20 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Boating Accident, Safety Alert 05-11

1. A Soldier was seriously injured while riding on a pontoon boat at Toledo Bend Reservoir. He fell from the boat and his legs were struck by the propeller. One leg was amputated above the knee. The operator of the boat had completed a boater safety course. The injured Soldier was wearing a personal floatation device (PFDs). Alcohol may have been involved.

2. What mistakes were made?

a. Underestimating the effects of drinking alcohol while boating. Apparent operation of a boat while under the influence of alcohol.

b. Standing up while a boat is in motion and operator inattentiveness.

3. Lessons Learned:

a. Do not consume alcohol and operate a boat. The effects of alcohol are amplified by the motion of the boat.

b. Never stand up in a boat while it is underway.

c. Always maintain situational awareness when operating a boat. Ensure all personnel are seated and PFDs are worn.

4. As summer approaches and boating activities increase, it is imperative for leaders to brief all Soldiers on boater safety.

**ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION, BRIEF TO ALL SOLDIERS, AND POST ON
BULLETIN BOARDS!**

MICHAEL D. BARBERO
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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